

Stelis transversalis *Ames, sp. nov.*

Herba valida, dense caespitosa. Radices fibratae. Caules secundarii monophylli, elongati, vaginis laxis instructi. Folium oblongo-ellipticum, in apice rotundatum, breviter petiolatum. Inflorescentiae singulae vel binae, terminales ad basin folii, subdensiflorae; pedunculus cum racemo folium permulto excedens, infra racemum paucibracteatus. Racemus elongatus, multiflorus, floribus partim transversalibus carnosus flavidis. Bracteae inflorescentiae approximatae, infundibuliformes. Sepala lateralia valde concava, anguste et inaequaliter ovata, usque ad medium connata, acuta, apice recurvata. Sepalum dorsale sepalis lateralibus longius, anguste ovatum, obtusum. Petala flabellata, valde carnosae, supra medium conspicue incrassata, trinervia. Labellum valde carnosum, rhombicum, antice excavatum, apice rotundatum, callo transverso ornatum. Columna carnosae, antice utrinque lobo carnosus stigmatifero instructa.

Secondary stems densely caespitose, erect, monophyllous, 3.5–6.5 cm. long, almost entirely concealed by two or three elongated loosely appressed tubular sheaths which are up to 3.5 cm. long. Leaf 6–12 cm. long, 2.1–3 cm. wide, rounded at the tip, elliptic-oblong, coriaceous, narrowed below into a short sulcate petiole. Peduncles one or two, arising from the axil of the leaf, including the slender elongated raceme up to 27 cm. long, emerging from a short conduplicate scarious sheath. Raceme usually about 12 cm. long, rarely exceeding 20 cm. in length, loosely many-flowered. Floral bracts very shortly infundibuliform, scarious, 1.3–3 mm. long. Flowers greenish yellow, more or less transversely inserted on the stiff rachis, 7–8.5 mm. from the tip of the dorsal sepal to the tip of either lateral sepal. Lateral sepals connate to about the middle, 2.9–3.6 mm. long, approximately 2 mm. wide, asymmetrically ovate, with the acute tips strongly re-

EXPLANATION OF ILLUSTRATION

STELIS TRANSVERSALIS Ames. Plant drawn about one fourth less than natural size. 1, flower much enlarged. 2, petals, labellum and column in natural position. 3, petal. 4, labellum showing transverse callus. 5, part of the raceme enlarged, showing the transversely arranged flowers. 6, leaf drawn natural size.

Drawn by Blanche Ames



STELIS *transversalis* Ames

flexed, strongly convex, 3-nerved with a conspicuous supplementary lateral nerve. Dorsal sepal 3.5–4.8 mm. long, about 3 mm. wide near the base, narrowly ovate, obtuse, convex with the margin strongly reflexed. Petals about 1 mm. long, 1.5 mm. wide, shortly unguiculate, flabellate or transversely elliptical, very fleshy, conspicuously thickened above the middle, 3-nerved. Labellum 1 mm. long, 1 mm. wide, fleshy, shortly unguiculate, rhombic in outline, with a transverse callus near the middle, rounded at the apex, with the anterior half concave. Column fleshy, with a stigmatiferous lobe on each side at the summit.

COSTA RICA, Peralta. A hot country form. Flowers greenish yellow. May 1925. *C. H. Lankester 1007*. (TYPE in Herb. AMES No. 30993.)